Numb. 5068

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday November 11. to Saturday November 15. 1712.

Madrid, November 5. *N. S.*

THE King of Spain having conſented, for the Preſervation of a Balance of Power in Europe, and the facilitating of a General Peace, to renounce all Right that he or his Poſterity might hereafter claim to the Kingdom of France, his Majeſty ſigned the following Act agreed upon for that purpoſe, at ten a-Clock this Morning, and ſwore upon the Holy Evangeliſts to obſerve the ſame, in preſence of the Council of State, and of the Chief Nobility. The Cortez or States of this Monarchy having been ſummon'd to meet here, in order to enact this Renunciation into a Law, his Catholick Majeſty, attended by the Preſident of Caſtille and Council of State, went into their Aſſembly at three this Afternoon, where in a ſhort but very moving Speech, he acquainted them with what he had done, and the Motives that had engaged him to it, which were afterwards more fully explained in a Declaration read to them by the Secretary of the Camera. The Repreſentative of the City of Burgos, in the Name of the reſt, returned an Anſwer to his Majeſty full of Acknowledgments for his Affection to the Spaniſh Nation, in preferring them to that of France. When this was done the Cortez adjourn'd, and agreed to meet again, in order to confirm and approve the Act of Renunciation. The Queen and Prince of Aſturias, as alſo the Lord Lexington, who has not yet taken upon him any publick Character, were preſent at the whole Solemnity.

DON Philip, *by the Grace of God, King of* Caſtille, Leon, Arragon, *both* Sicilies, Jeruſalem, Navarre, Granada, Toledo, Valencia, Galicia, Majorca, Seville, Sardinia, Cordova, Jaen, *the* Algarves, Algizare, Gibraltar, *the* Canary *Iſlands, the* Eaſt *and* Weſt Indies, *and* Terra Firma *of the Ocean Sea, Archduke of* Auſtria, *Duke of* Burgundy, Brabant *and* Milan, *Count of* Hapsburg, Flanders, Tirol *and* Barcelona, *Lord of* Biſcay *and* Molina, &c. *For the Evidence and Publication of this Inſtrument and Writing of Renunciation and Quitting Claim, and to preſerve the Memory thereof for ever, I do hereby Notifie and Declare to all Kings, Princes, Potentates, Commonwealths, Communities, and Private Perſons that now are, and ſhall be in future Ages: That whereas one of the chief Intentions of the Treaties of Peace now depending between the Crowns of* Spain, France, *and* England, *is the Preſervation of the Balance of Powers in* Europe, *in ſuch manner that too many being united together this deſired Balance and Equality may not be loſt, to the Advantage of one of them, and to the Peril and endangering of the reſt, and for the facilitating of a general Peace which may be firm and durable. It was propoſed and inſiſted on by* England, *and agreed to on my part and that of the King my Grandfather, that, to avoid in all future Times the Union of this Monarchy with that of* France; *and that it may not happen in any Caſe, reciprocal Renunciations ſhould be made on my part, and that of my Poſterity, to any poſſibility of ſucceeding to the Monarchy of* France, *and on the part of thoſe Princes, and all their Deſcendants preſent and to come, to any poſſible Succeſſion to this Monarchy, by framing a diſtinct Narrative of the Abdication to be made by the two Royal Crowns of each Monarchy, of all the Rights they might Claim of ſucceeding reciprocally to each other, ſeparating by the lawful Means of my Renunciation my Branch from the Royal Stem of France, and all the* French *Branches from any Communication which might be derived to them by Alliance of Blood with the Royal Stem of* Spain; *but at the ſame time, that for the above-mentioned Reaſons care is taken that the Monarchy of* France *is never to be joined to that of* Spain, *we muſt ſteddily purſue the fundamental and conſtant Maxim from which we are not in any Caſe to depart, viz. the Preſervation of the Balance of Power; therefore the Inconveniencies are likewiſe to be avoided that would ariſe, if upon failure of my Iſſue this Monarchy ſhould again devolve to the Houſe of Auſtria, which by the addition of ſo conſiderable a Dominion to that of the Empire and Hereditary Countries would become very formidable, which Conſideration was thought ſufficient in former Times for diſmembring the Hereditary Dominions of the Houſe of* Auſtria *from the Body of the* Spaniſh *Monarchy. It being for this purpoſe ſtipulated and agreed by* England *with me and the King my Grandfather, that upon failure of me and my Iſſue this Monarchy ſhall fall to the Houſe of* Savoy, *which being deſcended from the Infanta* Donna Catharina, *Daughter of King* Philip *the Second, and having never departed from that Claim, has an evident and known Right, that Friendſhip and perpetual Alliance being premiſed, whereby it is to be ſought and brought about, between the Duke of* Savoy *and his Poſterity and this Crown; ſince one ought to believe that with this perpetual and firm Hope this Balance will never vary, with which all the Powers ſhall thus in a friendly manner have brought themſelves into an equal Peiſe, being tired with the Labours and Uncertainty of Battles, no Power being left to any one Party to alter this Balance ſettled by Treaty, by the means of any Contract, Renunciation or Retroſpection; but the Reaſon of its perpetual Duration is to prevail, which induces the admitting it, and framing it into a fundamental Conſtitution, which, like an unalterable Law, ſhall regulate the Succeſſion for the time to come. I have conſidered the Premiſes, and out of the Love I bear to the* Spaniards, *and the Knowledge I have of what I owe them, and in regard to the repeated Inſtances I have received of their Loyalty, and to ſhew to the Divine Providence, with the Reſignation I owe to its Decrees, the Senſe I retain of that great Bleſſing of having placed and maintained me upon the Government of ſo many Illuſtrious and Well-deſerving Subjects, I have reſolved to Abdicate for me and all my Poſterity any Right of ſucceeding to the Crown of* France, *being deſirous never to depart from my Reſolution of Living and Dying with my Beloved and Faithful* Spaniards, *leaving to all my Poſterity the indiſſoluble Bond of their Loyalty and Love. And that this my Reſolution may have its due Effect, and an end may be put to that which has been look'd upon as one of the chief Motives of the War wherewith* Europe *hath been hitherto Afflicted, of my own Motion, free, ſpontaneous, and unconſtrained Will,* 'I Don Philip, *by the Grace of* 'God, &c. do, *by this preſent Inſtrument, for my* 'Self, *my Heirs and Succeſſors, for ever Renounce,* 'Relinquiſh and quit Claim *to all Pretenſions,* 'Rights and Titles *which I or any of my Poſterity* 'have at this time, *or may have at any time here-* 'after *to the Succeſſion of the Crown of* France. *And I declare and hold my ſelf excluded and ſeparated, my Self and my Children, Heirs and Poſterity for ever, excluded and diſabled, abſolutely and without limitation, difference and diſtinction*